

Appl. No. : 10/614,650
Filed : July 7, 2003

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in light of the above amendments.

Claim 21 is in Condition For Allowance

Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that, *inter alia*, a longitudinal space is defined between the first and second distal openings, and that the first distal opening is permanently maintained at a position distal of the second distal opening. An example of an embodiment in which this relationship is maintained, such as during use, is discussed in Applicants' specification at about ¶¶ [0040]-[0042] and FIGs. 3-4.

The cited art does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 21 as amended, or the claims that depend therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims.

New Claim

New Claim 35 has been added. This claim depends from Claim 21 and additionally recites that the wound cover member has a diameter that is greater than a diameter of the second lumen distal opening, as shown in the embodiment illustrated in at least FIGs. 3-4.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

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The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections and objections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: _____

4/18/07

By: _____

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